

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### **Pepino Brand's Inc.**

**Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc**

### **Pepino's Plantains Production Improved**

#### **Client Profile:**

Pepino Brand, Inc., located in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, is a manufacturer of two lines of food products, Cadi (pork, beef and turkey) and plantains. This company opened its operations in 2003 and currently employs 35 people

#### **Situation:**

Pepino Brand's management was fairly new and needed an assessment of their manufacturing process and plant facilities in order to improve production flow and capabilities. The company lacked the presence of an Industrial Engineer to help evaluate cost, product flow, space utilization, and productivity and quality issues. They were referred to the Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc (PRIMEX), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

#### **Solution:**

PRIMEX reviewed with management the needs, set an action plan and assigned two lean engineers. An assessment of both key product families was performed, and a Value Stream Mapping activity was recommended as the first step. The VSM process reflected the need for line balancing of the plantain product. A team of line employees was put together, VSM coaching was conducted, and a re-designed line was sketch and implemented. As a consequence of this change, the cooling process for the product line was also improved. Cooling fans were installed with an existing automatic belt conveyor to reduce the cycle time in half. There are still other recommendations driven by the VSM under analysis.

#### **Results:**

- \* Reduced product batch by 85 percent.
- \* Decreased cooling process cycle time by 50 percent.
- \* Reduced packing line lead time by 30 percent.
- \* Improved management ability to analyze process opportunities
- \* Decreased material flow time by 30 percent.

#### **Testimonial:**

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